

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 EUR-25 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07

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O R 031346Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0024

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10546

FOR EMBOFF INFO ONLY - NOT RPT NOT FOR TENNECO REPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FOUR

REF: A) KHARTOUM 2020; B) BEIRUT 10505; C) BEIRUT 10511

1. UPON RECEIPT OF MESSAGE FROM BRITISH CONSUL, QUOTED IN REFTEL C, EMBOFFS HAD DISCUSSED ITS CONTENTS WITH TENNECO REPS. HOWEVER, TENNECO REPS INSISTED THAT REFTEL B BE SENT AS WAS, CONTAINING ONLY CODE WORD AND STATEMENT THAT NEWS RELEASE WOULD BE MADE. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS AT TENNECO REPS INSISTENCE SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL B, THAT BBC AND AFP WERE NOT RPT NOT CONTACTED. ACCORDING TO TENNECO REPS, THEY WOULD ONLY DO THIS AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES.

2. RE PARA 3, REFT A, TENNECO REPS BURGHER AND WILSON HAVE BEEN IN GENERAL VERY CLOSEMOUTHED ABOUT CONTENT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS BUT INDICATED THAT CONDITIONS TO RELEASE OF HOSTAGES LISTED IN SALEH'S LETTER HAD ALL BEEN DISCUSSED AND CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. BECAUSE OF THIS AND FACT THAT CODE WORD HAD BEEN PASSED, EMBOFFS BEIRUT LIKewise ASSUMED CONFIDENTIAL

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DITIONS LISTED WERE ONLY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

3. FINALLY, RE PARA 4, REFTEL A. EMBOFFS, BEIRUT, ONLY LEARNED THAT ONE OF HOSTAGES WAS CANADIAN UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL AT WHICH TIME WE PREVAILED ON THEM TO SEND REFTEL C WITH ASSURANCES THAT RELEASE WAS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.

4. EMBOFFS, BEIRUT, DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION RELATIONS WITH TENNECO REPS ANYTHING LESS THAN CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN LAST PARA STATE 181713 EMBOFFS DECISION HAS BEEN TO DEFER TO THEM ON TACTICAL MATTERS, AND TO REMAIN PRIMARILY ONLY A CONDUIT FOR COMMUNICATIONS IN WHAT EMBASSY CONSIDERS PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS.
GODLEY

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